

**STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**June 21, 2018**  
**Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**  
**7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Kristie Zamora, State Advisory Commission on Aging (SAC) Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and welcomed all.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The pledge was led by Dave Caudle.

**Roll Call:** Kelly Cooper called roll and a quorum was present.

**Present:** Commissioner Kristie Zamora, State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC), Chairperson; Wendy White, SAC Vice Chairperson; Alan Bond, Dennis Brieske, Dave Caudle, Audra Frye, Victoria Laupp, Kirk Lewis, Gerald McCole, Angie Perone, Donald Ryan, Joseph Sowmick, Joseph Sucher, Elizabeth Thompson, Teresa Vear, Jo Ver Beek, Susan Vick, Karen Wintringham, John Zimmerman and Ex-Officio Member: Robyn Ford

**Excused:** Edna Albert, Charles Corwin, Sara Damiano, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Debra Johnson, Mary Jones, Nicolette McClure, Julie Wetherby, and Lillie Williams-Grays

**Absent:** Mary Engelman, Ex Officio Member

**Guest Commissioner:** Nancy Duncan

**Guest:** Joyce Ryan

**Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff present:** Scott Wamsley, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, Phil Lewis, Kelly Cooper, and Phil Lewis

**Recommended Actions:**

**Approval of the Agenda:** Victoria Laupp moved acceptance of the agenda. Gerald McCole seconded the motion. The SAC unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Gerald McCole moved to accept the April 20, 2018, minutes and Teresa Vear seconded. The SAC unanimously approved the April 20, 2018, minutes.

**Council Chairperson Report:**

**CSA Update:** Chairperson Zamora thanked all of the SAC volunteers for their time and dedication to helping older adults in Michigan. She also thanked Commissioner Duncan, SAC Vice-Chairperson, Wendy White, and AASA Staff--Scott Wamsley, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, Phil Lewis, and Kelly Cooper for their attendance and help in support of the SAC.

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***CSA Update continued:***

Commissioner Duncan shared that she was appointed to the CSA in January. She is retired, but most recently served as the Deputy State Budget Director for the State of Michigan, a position she held since 1998. She hopes to utilize her legislative background and experience in budget and finance to support seniors and the advocacy efforts.

Commissioner Duncan reported that the last CSA meeting was held in Capac, MI on June 15, 2018, with a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. One of the most impactful groups they heard from was the Foster Grandparent Program in St. Clair County. It was very apparent to Commissioner Duncan that this endeavor (and most volunteer opportunities) is a win-win situation, benefitting the person receiving help, the volunteer helping, and the community as a whole.

She also shared inspirational information based on this day in history being the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution in 1788. In thinking about the work SAC does and also as members of their communities, she reminded them that what they do is meaningful and is also a reflection of many of the things our forefathers envisioned.

**Chairperson Zamora** thanked all who served to revise the SAC By-Laws and shared that the revisions were approved by the CSA during their June meeting and have been adopted. The revised bylaws allow for the SAC Vice-Chairperson to serve up to two 2-year terms and also allows the SAC to elect a Co-Vice-Chairperson to share in the leadership responsibilities by splitting the work load between Co-Vice-Chairpersons.

She also extended the open invitation for SAC members to attend any CSA meeting(s) during the year. Attending these meetings is optional and will not be reimbursed for travel-related expenses. Upcoming meetings are: July 20 at 9:00 a.m. at the Alger Parks and Recreative Gymnasium in Munising with a public hearing at 1:00 p.m.; August 17 in the South Grand Conference Room in Lansing; September 21 in the South Grand Conference Room (Annual Implementation Plans will be presented during the August and September meetings); and October 19 at the Senior Alliance in Wayne County with a public hearing at 1:00 p.m.

***Older Michiganians' Day:*** Phil Lewis reported that the Older Michiganians' Day celebration went very well. Shirley Bentsen from AASA was on the planning committee and said that the survey results of the 16 regions were overwhelmingly positive with a few constructive criticisms. People would like the legislators to be more accessible and present throughout the event to hear their ideas and to be able to communicate with them about the importance of their issues.

The Area Agencies on Aging Association leads the event and AASA participates by presenting the Senior Citizen of the Year Award at the celebration. Senior Deputy

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***Older Michiganians' Day (OMD) continued:***

Director, Richard Kline, presented awards to two winners, Orzhelle Johnson (Region 8) and Cornelius Wilson (Region 1A) who were honored for their volunteerism. Please see the AASA website and Facebook page for more information on both the event and the winners. [www.michigan.gov/aasa](http://www.michigan.gov/aasa).

Discussion ensued that we may want to look into the other groups giving awards to older adults and possibly collaborate to highlight those people in the aging network who are doing great things and making an impact. Lauren shared that Cornelius was one of the volunteers interviewed by the Positive Benefits of Volunteering Workgroup. The OMD Platform for Legislative Action brochure was shared with the SAC. Kirk Lewis encouraged the SAC members to attend next year. He said the entertainment was very uplifting and set the tone for the day. Angie Perone said the event was both educational and inspirational as she learned more about the legislative process.

***Advocacy Committee Update:*** Phil Lewis shared that there are four main issues adopted by the CSA that were recommended by the Advocacy Committee:  
1. Transportation; 2. Direct Care Work Force; 3. Elder Abuse Prevention and Exploitation; 4. Home Delivered Meals and In-Home Services Waiting lists. The Advocacy Committee is working with five SAC members and AASA staff on these issues, with a brief pause because of commission changes including that an Advocacy Committee member, Commissioner Mast, recently stepped down from the CSA. The goal is to compile the key components that are most important in each category, narrow down the issues and develop targeted solutions. This will involve study, research, collaboration, and testing interventions to see what works and white papers will be written on each goal. Even if the CSA or the aging network doesn't have the resources to solve these issues, they would like to take the issues to the people who can affect change (legislators, etc.). There are different barriers based on geographic regions and we need to have something official that can provide a framework for ongoing work.

Don Ryan shared that he had a teleconference with Commissioner Kathleen LaTosch and Scott Wamsley last week about waiting lists. Another call is scheduled for June 28 with Jim McGuire from the Silver Key Coalition. Their upcoming actions are to find others who might serve as resources and talk with them.

Joe Sucher shared that Commissioner Ildardo is gathering information related to transportation and they are starting the research and analysis process of this information. The information gathered will be discussed with best options for sharing it with others. Joe wants to be sure there is coordination between the CSA and other groups including the Michigan Senior Advocates Council (MSAC), and he believes they are making good progress. Lauren shared that Clark Harder from the Michigan Public Transit Association would be a good resource and suggested talking with him.

Pat Rencher urged that there be coordination on these efforts and wants us to stay up-to-date on the current and upcoming legislation that would require MDHHS to complete

***Advocacy Committee Update continued:***

a long-term care feasibility study. Phil explained the Legislature recently passed the State's FY 2019 budget bill (Senate Enrolled Bill 848) that requires "the Medical Services Administration/MDHHS to match 100% of any private funds up to \$100,000 state general fund/general purpose revenues for the purpose of contracting for an independent feasibility study and actuarial model of public, private, and public-private hybrid options to help individuals prepare for, access, and afford long-term services and supports." Phil also shared that it is our goal to follow top issues like this one that affect Michigan's older adults. AASA will continue to provide updates to the SAC about any progress made about the study.

Jo Ver Beek shared her concerns about three in-home care agencies closing and two others refusing new clients in AAA Region 14 and that the Advocacy Committee's work on direct care workers (DCWs) will be very important. Once another commissioner is appointed to lead the DCW committee, SAC member Elizabeth Thompson and AASA staff will begin meeting on this important issue.

John Zimmerman was looking at the brochure from Older Michiganians' Day and questioned how the key issues were decided. He was concerned about the accuracy of the figures regarding cost for long-term care (LTC) vs. in-home care. He said it was like comparing apples to oranges in that LTC is 24-hour care with around the clock monitoring and in-home care was sometimes just 3-4 hours a day a few times a week. He said that it looks as if we (MI Choice Waiver) are funding people to get out of LTC homes in favor of staying at home when perhaps they actually need more advanced care. Phil reiterated that our main charge at AASA is to focus on finding the right setting for people and ensuring that they are receiving services that are best for them.

Wendy White said that we are advocating for those who can be at home with less support. Often supports are provided in the morning, mid-day and early evening. For the older adult who wants to stay at home and is able to do so, it is better for their quality of life mentally.

Teresa Vear suggested that in working with the transportation advocacy, we should look back to about six years ago when Senator Caswell suggested placing all of Michigan's transportation dollars into one place (central clearinghouse) and believed that it would save on administrative costs.

Elizabeth Thompson shared that there are some interesting and innovative transportation initiatives in Ypsilanti where the Willow Run site has been repurposed into the American Center for Mobility, which is a non-profit organization working on autonomous vehicles. She suggested that the Transportation Committee might want to connect with the center to be sure they are aware of older adults' needs.

***Business Items:***

***SAC Applicant Recruitment:***

Lauren reminded the SAC that we are seeking candidates from the following regions: 1A, 1C, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 14. Applications are available to be printed and she will send the printable version to SAC members. Soon, we will have the fillable electronic version up and running and we will post it onto the AASA Website. A link will also be sent to SAC members. The goal is for it to be as easy as possible for applicants. Vice-Chairperson, Wendy White shared that the SAC is interested in a well-rounded council and asked members to update or complete for the first time the SAC's skillsets checklist that can be used in determining member skills needed by the SAC. Members were asked to fill out and return before leaving for the day.

Chairperson Zamora said that the openings will be promoted via emails to the AAAs, CSA meetings, and the AASA website. She asked members to please share this within their local networks as well. The goal is to have every region represented to the fullest extent. Lauren shared that we have received an application from AAA Region 1C, and we are hoping to receive more applications by July 9, so they may be reviewed and approved next month. Elizabeth Thompson reminded the SAC that as we have found in our research regarding volunteers, the most effective way to recruit volunteers is to directly ask!

***Election of SAC Co-Vice-Chairpersons:*** Lauren Swanson-Aprill, SAC Lead reviewed with the SAC the new sections of the CSA-approved SAC bylaws, which allows for co-vice-chairpersons for the SAC. Wendy White expressed interest and applied for another two-year term. Donald Ryan submitted an application for vice-chairperson and agreed to be considered for co-vice chairperson. Lauren asked if members wished to discuss the election process or were there any other members who wanted to apply to serve. SAC members did not have any concerns and were prepared to vote on the candidates.

***Teresa Vear moved to approve the candidates for co-vice-chairpersons--Wendy White and Donald Ryan. Dave Caudle seconded the motion. SAC members unanimously approved.***

**BREAK**

**Informational Items:**

***Previous SAC report follow-ups:*** Chairperson Zamora shared that the goal of the SAC reports is to share them far and wide. She wants to continue learning how the reports are being shared.

***Direct Care Worker Report***—Lauren Swanson-Aprill shared that the second IMPART/Building Training...Building Quality (BTBQ™) trainers' training was held this week as part of the Health Endowment Fund grant being implemented by Michigan State University, AASA, lead trainers and researchers. Fourteen trainer candidates

**Informational Items continued:**

(nurses, personal care assistants, certified nursing assistants) with home care agency staff from central and west Michigan and two members of the Oceana Council on Aging staff participated. Additionally, the Public Broadcasting Service—PBS Newshour filmed part of the training and interviewed personal care assistants and IMPART staff for a ten-minute segment to be aired in the next few weeks and Lauren will provide the details. Lauren shared both an electronic and hard copy of the SAC's Direct Care Worker Report with the PBS producer. It was also noted that the Advocacy Committee has a copy of the report.

**Creative Aging Report:** Lauren Swanson-Aprill shared the SAC's Creative Aging Report during a retirement planning presentation provided by Wells Fargo. The presenter and Wells Fargo staff plan to share the report with others.

Karen Wintringham wondered if we were going to be very active in getting our reports into the hands of those who could benefit, and could we somehow get funding for printing them? Lauren explained that we are planning to print them. Commissioner Nancy Duncan suggested that the SAC might consider including an executive summary in the beginning of our reports to pull readers into finding out more about the topic. The SAC liked the idea and explained that we will also be including pictograms as well.

**Discuss SAC Volunteerism Report Draft:**

**Choose Report Title:** Co-Vice-Chairperson White said she found a *Volunteer Engagement Toolkit* published by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and thought the committees should look into the report and possibly incorporate a few of the findings such as the *Federal Volunteer Protection Act*. She also found information on volunteerism in the Muslim and LGBTQIA communities that will be added to our report. Lauren and Wendy have gone through edits and they will be working to tie all the parts together. Chairperson Zamora took Nicolette McClure's draft introduction for the report and placed it into a pictogram, for us to place in the report as a catchy way of drawing readers to review the whole report.

Next, SAC members reviewed and discussed the SAC Volunteerism Report title options. Some members were a little uncomfortable with some of the titles (ageism) suggesting that aging is "bad" and we need to make it "better". Karen Wintringham voiced her support of the Older Michiganians' Day theme: *Engage at Every Age*. Angie Perone shared that when looking for reports/research it is important that the report title itself says what we're doing. Elizabeth Thompson urged the SAC to use Google keywords and the title we choose should have the keyword in the first few words. Members also discussed who the audience is for the report. The report is written for the CSA who approves the SAC reports. Once approved, the SAC report is shared with the Governor, Legislature, aging network and the public.

**Report Title Suggestions:**

- *Volunteerism is Ageless—It Spans a Lifetime: A Report on Volunteering Benefits, and Effective Recruitment and Retention Strategies*
- *Volunteering By and For Older Adults: A Report on Volunteering Benefits, and Effective Recruitment Techniques and Retention Strategies*
- *Volunteerism—Life Is Short, Do Stuff that Matters*
- *Engage at Every Age*
- *New Friends, New Ideas, Endless Possibilities – through Volunteerism*
- *Volunteer...Do It for Them...Do It for You!*

Angie Perone volunteered to work with Lauren to send a survey with the top report titles for all SAC members to complete. Chairperson Zamora assured the Council that they would do their due diligence in making sure there were no copyright infringements or complications with other groups' using the same or similar slogans/titles.

**Choose Photos for Report Cover**

Lauren Swanson-Aprill explained that she received a few more photos and that photos taken at OMD of the two seniors of the year are available for us to use—the SAC already has Volunteer of the Year, Cornelius Wilson's photo from the Positive Benefits of Volunteering Workgroup's summary. SAC member, Joseph Sowmick showed a slide presentation of Native American volunteers and provided background information. In addition to the photos collected to date, several members offered to send photos to include in the report.

**LUNCH**

**Lauren Swanson-Aprill** read a thank you note from Clayton Bond, Alan Bond's son, for allowing him to attend the April meeting.

**Don Ryan** shared that the centenarian celebration in Kalamazoo had 21 centenarians in attendance.

**Volunteerism Report Discussion Continued:**

Co-Vice-Chairperson White summarized the plans for working on the report and a draft will be sent to members for their review and comment.

**Continue Discussion of SAC Ideas for New Charge:**

Lauren Swanson-Aprill reminded members about the SAC April meeting discussion regarding a possible new charge. Ideas included finding a new topic or revisiting past SAC reports such as the technology report since so much has changed over the past four years. Members discussed the SAC's workgroup process and whether to prepare another large issue report and shared the following:

***Continue Discussion of SAC Ideas for New Charge:***

- Prepare a targeted report with statistics about the most important issues facing our aging population to more directly affect change and to be shared with the Governor and Legislature.
- Give our reports to the Legislature that allocates the state's resources and continue advocating for funding to support older adult issues.
- Review the Older American's Act to ensure we are having our most important issues addressed, educate others about it, and work to have our voices heard.
- The Upper Peninsula (U.P.) needs support from lower Michigan on U.P. older adult issues.
- Technology is changing and evolving and might be good to revisit. Maybe we should revisit two reports and utilize workgroups.
- Review the AAA Annual Implementation Plans and maybe MSAC can assist in taking these topics to the legislature?
- Social isolation and technology might be two topics to focus on. Smaller workgroups are positive as they provide everyone more opportunities to share ideas and are easier to manage.
- Gear the report toward older adults but with recommendations to the CSA.
- Prepare a report geared toward employers encouraging them to participate in providing long-term care benefits for their employees due to the older population growing so rapidly.

Other suggestions included:

John Zimmerman shared that our reports can either serve as resource gathering and be informative, or they can be geared toward tackling the growing older adult population crisis, what it entails specifically in terms of supporting it, and how to bring the information about the impact to those who fund the supports and services. John volunteered to draft a proposed summary of his concerns that might be useful in considering a possible charge.

Elizabeth Thompson noted that we are in a unique situation with a soon-to-be new governor. Finishing our last report and starting a new one, just as the new governor gets his/her feet wet, is the ideal time to make a huge impact.

Angie Perone volunteered to include the ideas for a new charge in the survey regarding the Volunteerism report title. The goal will be to take the top three ideas to the CSA.



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**Discuss Future Meeting Plans:**

Following discussion, it was decided to cancel the August meeting so that work may continue on the Volunteerism report. The draft report will be sent both electronically and via the U.S. Mail for members to review and provide input/edits in July. During the October meeting, the SAC will consider whether to add another meeting earlier in the year. Chairperson Zamora explained that there is no official time frame for finalizing reports, but we try to follow the state's fiscal year. Her goal is to give the CSA the Volunteerism report by the CSA's August meeting and she will discuss this with CSA Chairperson, Commissioner Wishart.

**Wrap-Up:**

Angie Perone announced that the SAGE-Metro-Detroit is holding a summit on June 23, 2018, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the MSU Detroit Center.

<https://www.sagemetrodetroit.org/>

Audra Frye shared that Presbyterian Villages of Michigan is holding its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Victory Cup on June 22, 2018, an event supported by an army of volunteers.

<https://www.pvm.org/village-victory-cup-2018/> They are also holding a technology conference on July 27.

**Adjourn:**

Gerald McCole moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Teresa Vear. Chairperson Zamora adjourned the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**State Advisory Council on Aging Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 25**  
**9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

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